



DOE DIALOGUE | Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz

May 6, 2014

Teacher Appreciation ☺

May 5-9 is Teacher Appreciation Week! I created a [video update](#) to educators after the adoption of the standards. I always thank educators for their dedication to Indiana's children. Please forward my video message to them. I know each of you is making sure this week is special for your teachers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8i3YIACKbk>

ISTEP online testing...

Indiana was 57% complete with online testing on Friday, May 2nd. Thank you for your continued work with students. The IDOE is very receptive to getting CTB tech support to schools when it is needed. Contact Michele Walker for any assistance.

U. S. Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Waiver

Attached is my [press release](#) regarding the Department's compliance with our ESEA Flexibility Waiver. The report reflects the status of August 2013. The Department has been working with USED since that time to be ready to respond to the waiver with appropriate amendments. ([press release](#))

2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars

President Obama announced 141 Presidential Scholars, and two of the scholars are from Indiana! The students are:

- Daniel Y. Fu, Park Tudor School, Indianapolis, IN. Most influential teacher: Ryan Ritz, Indianapolis, IN.
- Abby E. Lemert, Carroll High School, Ft Wayne, IN. Most influential teacher: Letisha Clendenen, Ft Wayne, IN.

Enjoy the beautiful weather this week!

Keep in touch. Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

NOTE: * indicates data information requirements for ALL public schools, including charter schools.

We The People: Brown Co. Junior HS wins and Fishers High School Places 4th in the nation in the "We The People" National Finals. The 27th Annual "We the People" National Finals took place from April 26th - April 28th at George Mason University. The teams competed with 55 other teams from around the nation. This is the first time [Fishers HS](#) had a team go all the way to the Nationals and second year [Brown County Junior High School 8th Grade](#) won the National Championship in Washington D. C. The National Finals takes the form of simulated congressional hearings. During the hearings, groups of students testify as constitutional experts before panels of judges acting as congressional committees scoring the groups through a performance-based assessment. While in Washington, D.C., students have the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, learn about government beyond the classroom walls, and meet with elected officials and other dignitaries. <http://new.civiced.org/national-finals-2014>



(Fishers HS Finalist)



(Brown Co. Junior HS 8th Grade, National Champs)

Memorandum

MEMORANDUM: USDA summer meal programs: Many families have trouble feeding their children during the summer months, the following letter from Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan discusses opportunities for children to receive free meals through federal summer meals programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) summer meal programs that are available to schools include the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). These programs operate in partnership with the Federal government, State agencies, and local organizations to serve free meals to children age 18 years and younger. USDA provides reimbursement for meals; State agencies administer the program; and local organizations, including schools, nonprofits, parks and recreation departments, libraries, and faith-based groups serve the meals. To learn more about the USDA summer meal programs visit: www.summerfood.usda.gov. In addition, the Food and Nutrition Service regional office staff is available to provide technical assistance and answer any questions you may have on USDA summer meal programs at the following link: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns-regional-offices>.

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana Teacher Appraisal and Support System (INTASS) is partnering with the *Indiana Association of School Principals* and the *Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents* to conduct surveys of Principals and Superintendents across the state on the impact of the teacher evaluation law upon the development and implementation of high quality teacher evaluation plans. The responses and your participation will be honored with anonymity and confidentiality. The results of the survey will be used for recommendations for policymakers and educators and will be shared with you through your association. Thank you for your voluntary participation in this important opportunity.

To complete these surveys , go to these links:

- **Principals** <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1585156/Principal-Survey-Teacher-Evaluation-SEA-1>
- **Superintendents** <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1588617/Superintendent-Survey-Teacher-Evaluation-SEA-1>

MEMORANDUM: Purdue University will kick off M-STEM³, a program that harnesses the excitement of auto racing, to teach science, technology, engineering and math and promote STEM-related careers. The M-

STEM³ program launches with the M-STEM³ 500 on May 12 and 13 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Students will have an opportunity during the event to meet industry-related employers during a career fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. The focus of the initial M-STEM program has been developing a middle school curriculum, which eventually can be expanded to upper elementary and high school classes. Attractions will include live demonstrations from First Robotics and VEX Robotics, an autograph session from Honda Racing's IndyCar drivers, displays from Firestone Racing Tires, Soap Box Derby Racing, a demonstration of a high school karting program, and interactions with Radio Disney and media company Edge Factor. The M-STEM³ 500 is open to all students. Schools or parents planning to bring students to the event must register at <https://engineering.purdue.edu/MSTEM/>. They also must contact Mary Giess at the Motor Speedway Museum, giess@brickyard.com, 317-492-6747. That office will provide tickets and bus passes.

MEMORANDUM: "EXCITE" Excel, Create and Inspire the Teaching Experience, July 21-25, 2014. Purdue University College of Education (main campus) is offering a summer residential camp to high school students who would like to explore teaching as a career. EXCITE - Explore teaching as a career camp. This is a four day residential camp. The goal is to provide High School students the experiences that will motivate, inspire and allow them to discover teaching as a career. You can experience Purdue University campus life and meet current students and faculty. You will learn about computers, math, leadership, writing literacy and discover your true passion for helping others. This camp is great for students entering grades 10, 11 and 12 in the fall of 2014. Students, parents, counselors can visit the web site to register or for more information. www.conf.purdue.edu/excite Or please contact Dr. Reed, Assistant dean for more information at 765-494-2345.

MEMORANDUM: The Hoosier Family of Readers is an initiative to build a culture of readers in the state of Indiana. But in order to read, kids need books! That's why the [Hoosier Family of Readers](#) is excited to partner with nonprofit [First Book](#) to help you and your Family of Readers access **brand new, free and low-cost books**. First Book (www.firstbook.org) is a nonprofit social enterprise that distributes tens of millions of new books and educational resources every year to schools serving children in need nationwide. For more information contact the First Book Help Team at (866) READ-NOW or help@firstbook.org.

MEMORANDUM: The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience - the Midwest's largest outdoor recreational event - is searching for volunteers. The 2014 event will take place at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, 9/20-9/21. This free, family-friendly event offers more than 50 different outdoor activities and runs from 10am-6pm each day. Volunteers will be assigned to help in five-hour shifts with one of the many on-site activities such as fishing, mountain biking, canoeing, archaeological dig and more. Come experience one of the greatest events of the year! Starting July 1st sign up to volunteer at <http://2013experiencevolunteers.eventbrite.com>. Contact volunteer coordinator Cheryl Hampton, (317) 233-1002, champton@dnr.in.gov. Visit us online at www.hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov

MEMORANDUM: 21st Century Scholars Jump Start Junior Workshops The 21st Century Scholars Program has developed a series of regionally-based workshops to help current 21st Century Scholar juniors get a 'Jump Start' on their senior year of high school. Held on 38 local college campuses, each workshop will provide Scholars with essential information about the 21st Century Scholarship along with tips and resources to help them 'Jump Start' their path toward college and career success. Junior Scholars (class of 2015) and their parents or guardians are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop in their area. Register online at www.scholars.in.gov/scholarsworkshops Contact Amber Audrain, the College Success Campaign and Project Manager, aaudrain@che.in.gov 317-464-4400 ext. 139

MEMORANDUM: 2014 Learn More Indiana Student Survey The Learn More Indiana Student Survey provides information about the degree to which students in grades eight to twelfth make sound choices in areas proven to help students succeed. Setting up the survey takes only a few moments and student completion takes approximately 30 minutes. This survey aims to help the public better understand the needs of students and the incredible amount of time counselors spend on program delivery. The survey is available until June 15th and can be found at www.learnmoreindiana.org/survey. Additionally, schools who have 75% or more of their student body complete the survey, will be entered to win one of three \$500 grants for college and career programming! Contact Amber Audrain, the College Success Campaign and Project Manager, aaudrain@che.in.gov 317-464-4400 ext. 139

MEMORANDUM: Completing the FAFSA is a crucial step in students' accessing financial aid for college. Help your students remember to make any necessary edits by May 15th to cash in on their portion of \$1 billion in financial aid! The FAFSA Friday webinar is now available at fafsafriday.org as a video! This

is a great tool to help students and parents get their questions answered as they complete this critical application.

Contact Amber Audrain, the College Success Campaign and Project Manager, aaudrain@che.in.gov 317-464-4400 ext. 139

Information From Other Agencies

INDIANA STATE POLICE SUMMER YOUTH CAMP PROGRAM The Indiana Troopers Youth Services organization coordinates the Indiana State Police Summer Youth Camp Program each summer. The camps have been held every summer since 1970. Our camps are age-appropriate for 5th grade through high school. We offer 4 camps for 5-6 graders; 2 for 7-8 graders and 2 for high school age. All camps are held on Indiana college campuses. Thanks to the generosity of service organizations and individuals we do have some financial assistance available to help families in need of it. Our website is: www.trooper.org and the application and other information is available on website. Contact Karen W. Shelton â€” Director of Operations â€” Indiana Troopers Youth Services, Inc. â€” 800-671-9851

National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-9, 2014, Teaching Channel is celebrating with a "**5 Days, 5 Ways Giveaway**". We're giving away hundreds of fun, exciting prizes to educators as a thank you gift for their dedication. *And we'd love it if you could help us spread the word to your audience of educators!*

Here is the info in a number of formats. First, just **basic descriptions and links**:

- [5 Days, 5 Ways Giveaway web page](#) - Contains information regarding thank you gifts, registration, and eligibility, along with links to the rules and winners pages.
- [5 Days, 5 Ways Video](#) - A fun animated video for the **Tch** giveaway that educators can enjoy and share. *Note: If you would like to put this video on a web page, you can embed this video by clicking 'Embed' and copying the code and pasting it into your html code.
- [5 Days, 5 Ways Giveaway Rules page](#) - Legal giveaway rules and eligibility.

Legislative Updates

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